



## SUMMER READING PLAN

### DAY JEREMIAH 2:1-19

16

Think back to your first heartbreak. It felt like the world was over. You gave your heart away, and they threw it back in pieces. It hurt so much you thought you would never love again. Now, what if they left you for a loser? That's like salt in the wound! You cannot read today's passage without seeing that God's heart is broken. He has done everything for Judah, and they have dumped Him. They left their soulmate for a loser who couldn't take care of them and would only abuse them. Who would trade the perfect love of God for anything less? Well, we would. That's what idolatry is—cheating on our true love only to find out our fling didn't care about us at all. So how about it? What has captivated your attention recently? Do you need to return to the real source of life?

### DAY JEREMIAH 23:1-6

17

Can you see a hulking superstar like Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson breaking up a fight between his squabbling children? He tells them to work it out. But the little tikes are fighting and won't knock it off. So 260lbs. of pure muscle steps in and says, “I'll handle this myself.” You can guess who would win that one. The leaders God had entrusted to care for His people were abusing them for their selfish benefit. God was sick of it, so He stepped in and said, “I'll handle this myself.” So God promised a future king who would rule with justice and righteousness—a king who would selflessly serve His people. That king would be of the line of David. That king would rescue them so dramatically that the epic Exodus would pale in comparison. Thank God, He cared enough to step in Himself.

### DAY LUKE 2:1-20

18

Waiting can be torture! I was in a long distance relationship in college. When my girlfriend was coming into town, I couldn't wait to see her. I was like a kid on Christmas Eve. Every time I heard a car go past the dorm, I would check to see if she had arrived. The longer it took, the greater the anticipation. There were those in Israel who longed to see the promised king. From the time the Old Testament closed until the opening words of the New Testament was 400 years. That's 400 years of waiting. 400 years of silence. Some stopped looking. Others looked harder. Then it happened. The silence was shattered by the cry of a child. Jesus would grow up in obscurity, and suffer horribly, before His ultimate victory. The long awaited King had finally come.

## DAY JOHN 1:1-18

19

Have you heard of glamping? It's camping that is so glamorous that it shouldn't even qualify as camping! It is for those who want all the benefits of being outdoors without the discomfort. Back in the day, camping meant roughing it. Now it can mean air-conditioned cottages or glorious views without hiking uphill. When Jesus left the perfect joy and comfort of heaven, He didn't come "glamping." Verse 14 tells us that He made His tent right in the mix with us. He didn't avoid the discomfort of living as a man, right alongside us. That tells us a lot about Jesus. He came to love and not to judge. He came to serve and not be served. He came to make a way, not just point the way. He was full of grace and truth. He got dirty, sweaty, tired, and tested. Just like us. Just so He could save us.

## DAY MATTHEW 5:1-48

20

Did you ever play a game with someone who made up the rules as you went along? Somehow, they always won. But when you found out the way it was meant to be played you realized how different things would have been! In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed the new rules of God's kingdom. He flipped the script by offering everyone access to God, not just the religious elite. Their hearts lifted. He addressed the many problems of the human heart. He didn't lower the standard; He raised it. Their hopes plummeted in response. No one could be that holy! But Jesus would go on to fulfill those high standards in our place. Then He would die to pay the price of our sin. And rising again, Jesus would offer us a new life where we can—imperfectly, progressively—learn to be holy too.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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